



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

FHPS POLICY D-00-4

**DISRUPTED SERVICE TO AUTOMATIC
FIRE PROTECTION, DETECTION, AND
ALARM SYSTEMS
UFC 1001.5.3.1**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain requirements to provide the early notification of a fire when an automatic fire protection or detection system is not in service.

II. SCOPE

The scope of this policy shall include requirements in buildings where an automatic fire protection or detection system is installed but is not in service.

III. DEFINITIONS AND TERMS

- A. Buildings: All buildings, whether new or existing, where automatic fire protection and detection systems are installed, including buildings undergoing alteration, repair and demolition.
- B. Fire Watch: A person trained as a site guard who is capable of notifying Fire and Life Safety Services and occupants of a fire. Fire watch may be Department personnel.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. The owner or his/her authorized representative shall immediately notify the Fire Communications Center at 858 974-9891 any time an automatic fire protection or detection system is not in operation. He/she shall also notify Fire and Hazard Prevention Services at 619 533-4400.
- B. The building representative must notify occupants of the fire watch within 24 hours of its establishment.



Fire and Hazard Prevention

Fire and Life Safety Services • 1010 Second Avenue, Suite 300 • San Diego, CA 92101
Tel (619) 533-4400 Fax (619) 544-6806

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- C. Any repair or corrective action shall be initiated immediately. After repair or corrective action is completed and the system is back in service, Fire and Hazard Prevention Services and the Fire Communications Center shall be notified.
- D. A fire watch shall be provided when the system cannot be repaired in a timely manner (more than 24 hours) and/or the lack of protection creates a building or life safety hazard as determined by the Fire Marshal or his/her authorized representative.

Exception: When a building is equipped with an on-site water supply (minimum 7500 gallons) and an emergency back-up power supply (i.e. emergency generator) a fire watch will not be required.

- E. A fire watch shall be established immediately when fire protection, detection, and alarm systems are not in operation in high, life-risk occupancies such as hospitals, care facilities, schools, high-rise buildings and R-1 residential occupancies.
- F. The minimum level of fire guard service shall be one guard per floor in multistory buildings and one guard for each fire protection system zone in single story buildings. Additional guards assigned as fire watch may depend on the hazard and building design. The fire watch service will continue until the automatic fire protection or detection system is placed back in service.

Promulgated by: [signed] Date: 3/2/2000

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